THE

Last SPEECHES and Dying WORDS

OF

Capt. Thomas Green,

Commander of the Ship the *Worceſter*,

AND OF

Captain John Madder,

Chief Mate of the ſaid Ship.

The Laſt Speech of Capt. Thomas Green, *who was Executed near* Lieth, April 11. 1705. Publiſhed at their own deſire from the *Copy* which was read on the Scaffold.

Good People,

BEfore I die I think it my Duty to Advertiſe you with many things wherewith my Enemies do aſperſe me and my Company. We are condemn'd as Pirates and Murderers on a Coaſt far diſtant from this Place. Is there any of you who wants either a Friend whom we have murder'd? Or whoſe Goods have we taken? We have lived in this Place ſince July laſt, can any ſay we have injur'd them? And yet we paſs under this Imputation of the worſt of Men, without either Religion or Probity.

I was Educated in the Religion of the Church of *England*, and I die in that Faith: Aboard our Ship twice I was Commander, the Prayers and Service of the Church was read Morning and Evening; and the Seizers of the *Worceſter* will find there, both Bibles and Prayer-Books. In Relation to the Crimes for which I ſtand condemn'd, I declare that one cannot hope to ſee GOD in Mercy, if he die with a lye in his Mouth: And if a Man be condemn'd to Death for a Crime, under the hazard of loſing his Soul, he ought to glorifie GOD by owning his Guilt, and ſhewing a Sincere Repentance if he be guilty.

Purſuant to which, I, in the Preſence of Almighty GOD, declare to you his People, That I am innocent in Deſign or Deed, and free from the Crimes for which I am condemn'd. That to my Knowledge, I never all my Life-time wrong'd Man in his Perſon or Goods, or had Acceſſion thereto. What the Cuſtom of Pirates is, I thank GOD I know not: But I underſtand my Accuſers and Perſecutors will have you to believe, that I think it unneceſſary to confeſs before Men. Take what I ſay as good Chriſtians ought to do, if you have no Charity you wrong your ſelves, and cannot hurt me. I am told ſome of my Crew have confeſſed the Crimes, and loaded us with Guilt; this is done ſince Sentence, and in hope of Saving themſelves, which I wiſh they may do by Lawful means, and not have acceſſion to the ſhedding innocent Blood. I am a Dying, theſe are ſtill in hopes to Live, chuſe you which of us to believe.

As to the Falſe witneſſes that were admitted againſt us, what way they have been practiced, *God* knows, and I hope Time will bring it to light. As to the *Negroes*, this Country know not their perfidious and revengeful Temper, and upon Trial it will be found, that *Antonio Ferdinando* (as he is now called) was not in our Company 48 Hours on the Coaſt of *Malabar*, but was taken in at *Anjengo* immediately before we went to *Bengal*, and that the Sloop was loſt ſix weeks before ever we ſaw his Face. The Chirurgeon, Mr. *May*'s Depoſition, is much upon Hearſay; though I find he favours the Malicious Plot more than he ought to do, for which I pray GOD forgive him.

The Preſumptions made uſe of againſt me, are ſuch as I could have Satisfied the Court in, had I been allowed to prove my Grounds of Exculpation; but my whole Defences were Repelled; and I gave in a particular Condeſcendance of the Place and Time, when and where my Cargo was laded, taken out of the Books and it will appear, that it agrees with the Inventory, and there is not a weighing of Anchor, or the leaſt Sailing on the other ſide of the Line, which was without the Supercargo's written Orders, purſuant to my Inſtructions from my Owners, and theſe are to be found with my Papers; I ſhall only add this for your Information, that I went not a Roving out of the Road of our Trade and Commerce, that I never had occaſion to Shoot Powder or draw a Cannon in Wrath during the Voyage, and I would have the conſidering World to examine, if ever a Maſter of a Ship went a pirating for Owner or Freighters, and returned to *Europe*, or to the Port from whence they came.

I muſt take this occaſion to Honour and Juſtifie a Gentleman, one of my Lawyers, who is moſt unjuſtly reproached by his Country-men, for aſſiſting me againſt the Violence of my Perſecutors: He told me ſix weeks before I was Impriſon'd of an evil Report rais'd againſt me, of having murther'd Capt. *Drummond* and his Crew, and Robb'd his Ship, and encouraged me to tell if there was ground for that Report, and has ever ſince exhorted me to confeſs if I was guilty. But I maintain'd always, as in this Action of my Life, I declare my Innocence, and that I never knew till I came to *Scotland*, that ſuch a Man was at Sea, ſo there was no occaſion to harden us as has been falſly laid. And if I were guilty of the Crimes I ſtand condemned for, I think my ſelf bound by a publick Confeſſion to glorifie God's Juſtice.

The Malice of my Enemies must be very great, that they'd have me deny'd Law defence, by raising false Reports to terrifie my faithful Lawyers from giving me their assistance. I'm oblig'd to that Gentleman who has patiently suffered Reproach without a cause for my sake, and who has not been frighten'd from his Duty, but maugre Spite and Calumnies, maintain'd the Cause of innocent oppress'd Strangers; for which God I hope will reward him.

In the Humour of Uncharitableness which at this time abounds, Men may think that altho' I be free from Piracy, Robbery and Murder, yet I must needs be guilty of gross Sins, which have drawn on me this Judgment; for God is Just in all his doings.

For your Satisfaction please know, That I believe that no Man can free himself from Sin, which if God's Mercy in the Merits of Jesus do not prevent, deserves Death both Temporal and Eternal. Men in a Seafaring Employment, whatever they may do to keep themselves free of gross and immoral Vices, cannot do all the Duties of Religion, that private Men and Priests have the opportunity to practice: But for my part, I bless God that I have always had a Reverence for Religion and Religious Matters, and that by his Grace I have been kept free from any gross or Unnatural Crimes which by the Laws of Men or Societies deserve death, or an ignominous punishment: So I shall only repeat the Question of our Saviour made, *Were those Persons on whom the Tower of* Siloam *fell, greater Sinners than you are*, &c.

It's the Will of God that this befall me, and I thank his Goodness, that gives me the opportunity of dying dilibrately with all due Preparation, which possibly I would not have had either at Sea, where I have been in great danger, or in Sickness, when Men are neither willing to think of death, nor able to undergo a necessary Preparation for it: And seeing I could not imitate my Saviour in his Life, he has blessed me with the opportunity of following him a little at his death, in so far as I die for Crimes I am not guilty of.

Rest satisfied and assured that ere long you shall know the Mistake this Nation has run into in our Case, when the Truth will not help us.

I forgive all Men and desire to die in Charity with you all, requesting your Prayers to God for my poor Soul. I bid you and the World farewell. *Sic Subscribtur.*

Thomas Green

The Last SPEECH *of Captain* John Madder, *Chief Mate of the* Worcester.

I Here declare in the Presence of God, and before all these People, my Auditors and Spectators, that I, nor any of Capt. Green's *Crew, never committed Piracy, Robbery, or Murder, or had Accession thereto in our whole Voyage. Nor I at any other time during my Life, upon any sort of Ships, Boats or Barks, or any other thing that moved on the Water, of any sort of Language, Nation, or People, whether* European, Asian, African, *or* American, *or of* Scots. English *or* Dutch, *i the words of a dying Man may be believed, by giving his Solemn Oath, in the Presence of God, and all these People, which Oath all Christians may think and be sure of, that I would not step into Eternity with a lye in my Mouth, and if I did, there would be no Remission for my Immortal Soul from my Great and Omnipotent Judge and Saviour, by whom I hope, by unfeigned Repentance, I shall be Saved.*

My Oath is such, here I Swear in the Presence of God, and before all these People, nothing but what is Truth, as I must answer before my Impartial Judge, when call'd to Account at the Great Day, if I be guilty of these False and Calumnious Accusations that I am Condemn'd for, viz. *Piracy, Robbery and Murder; may the Great God of Heaven and Earth, that Minute my Immortal Soul departs from my Body, cause it to be thrown into utter darkness, where there is nothing but Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth. But as I'm Innocent of these False and Calumnious Accusations that I am Condemn'd for, I trust in my Great and Merciful God, by the Mediation and Intercession of my Lord and Saviour* JESUS *Christ, on whose Merits I Confide and Relie, will Graciously Pardon all my other Sins committed in my Life Time, whether of Omission or Commission, or Thought, Word and Deed, which are all known to him who is Omniscient; for there is nothing hid from him, with whom we have to do. And God knows, and I hope due Time will discover the Practices of some Persons, who have been at great Pains and Zeal to Cheat us out of our Lives by False and Perjur'd Witnesses, which I appeal to God to be true, and I am Innocent, and Innocent Blood will call for Vengeance on them that is the Cause of shedding it. God Forgive them, and I Forgive them.* Farewell.

John Madder.

London, April 20. The following Letter having Relation to the above Story; all we think needful to say of it, is, that we are told it comes from a plain Seaman; and that we printed it from the Original.

Loving Uncle and Aunt,

BEfore I die, I think it my Duty to give you an account of what was done upon the 11th *Instant. They have put Captain Green, John Madder, and James Simpson to Death. I and 5 more die on Friday the* 20th *Instant. I should have died up on the* 11th, *but God in his Mercy did prevent it. I think, and so ought all good Christians, that there is already too much innocent Blood taken. Dear Sir, I assure e'er long you will know the Mistake this Nation has run into in our Case, when the Truth will not help us. I am Inform'd that I must fall a Sacrifice. Blessed be God that gives me Opportunity of dying with full Judgment I bless my great God that he has given me more time to prepare for Death. I declare to you my Innocency of the Crimes laid to my Charge. It is Pity so many innocent People should suffer, but I forgive all Men, and desire to die in Charity with all requesting your Prayers to God for my poor Soul. I bid you, and all Friends, and this World Adieu. I die for Crimes I am not Guilty of.*

Edinburgh,

Your dying Kinsman

Geo. Kirchlo